

Message Text

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TAGS:PFOR, PINT, EGEN, SZ

SUBJECT: US-SWISS JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY AND OUT-
STANDING BILATERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

REF: BERN 4652

1. ON DECEMBER 17, SWISS AMBASSADOR FELIX SCHNYDER
DELIVERED TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JULIUS L. KATZ,
EB, AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE REMARKS FRITZ HOFMANN
MADE DURING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL'S DEBATE ON THE RATIFI-
CATION OF THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY (PARA 3, REFTTEL).
SCHNYDER STATED THAT HE WAS CONVEYING THIS MESSAGE, UNDER
THE INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, FOR OUR INFORMATION.
HE NOTED THAT, WHILE HOFMANN MADE POSITIVE COMMENTS
ABOUT THE TREATY ITSELF, HIS SPEECH CALLS ATTENTION TO THE
POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS COULD AFFECT THE VOTE NEXT SPRING IN THE COUNCIL
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OF STATES. THE THREE AREAS IN WHICH HOFMANN FINDS THAT

"THE UNITED STATES HAS DEMONSTRATED AN UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD SWITZERLAND" ARE: (A) THE US DESIRE TO IMPOSE LIMITS ON SWISSAIR'S TRANSATLANTIC OPERATIONS, (B) THE ANTITRUST INVESTIGATION OF NESTLE, AND (C) THE COUNTERVAILING-DUTY INVESTIGATION OF SWISS CHEESE EXPORTS.

2. AMBASSADOR SCHNYDER WARNED THAT THE SWISS UPPER HOUSE COULD POSSIBLY DELAY FURTHER ACTION ON THE TREATY IF THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC ATMOSPHERE HAS NOT IMPROVED BY NEXT MARCH, WHEN DELIBERATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE.

3. MR. KATZ ASSURED AMBASSADOR SCHNYDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE CAB, FTC, AND TREASURY CONCERNING THE CASES WHICH CONCERN THE SWISS. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THESE MATTERS ARE BEING HANDLED WITH FULL APPRECIATION OF THE SWISS POSITIONS. AMBASSADOR SCHNYDER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE IMPROVED IN CERTAIN RESPECTS: (A) THE SWISSAIR NEGOTIATORS FELT THAT THEIR RECENT DIRECT TALKS WITH TWA INDICATED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT AN INTER-AIRLINE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF HAVING GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS; (B) THE CHEESE INVESTIGATION "LOOKS GOOD"-- ESPECIALLY IF THE NEW US TRADE BILL CAN INTRODUCE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN COUNTERVAILING-DUTY PROCEDURES. KISSINGER

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